

NSC BRIEFING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ February 1959

HORN OF AFRICA

I. Since publication of the OCB paper dealing with the Horn of Africa, [REDACTED]

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1. Has expressed guarded approval for eventual association between protectorate and Italian trust territory of Somalia due for independence in December 1960.

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a. Somali nationalists want to unify 2,500,000 Somali tribesmen now divided among Somalia, British and French Somaliland enclaves, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

4. Ethiopia believes its large Ogaden province which is mainly Somali inhabited and only loosely administered by Addis Ababa is primary target of Somali nationalists.

13

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- C. Ethiopia regards Washington's support for London plan a joint UK-US pressure move and has officially protested to both countries

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II. Two developing situations are worth noting.

A. Recent reports indicate Ethiopia may soon annex Eritrea.

1. Ethiopia really controls Eritrea now. Since 1952 when Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia the latter has been slowly eliminating Eritrean autonomy.
2. Although widespread Eritrean disorders unlikely, Cairo-inspired sporadic riots may occur among the large Moslem population.

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3. A UAR-sponsored protest to UN is likely, but probably will not succeed.
- B. In March 1959, important legislative elections will be held in Somalia as it prepares to move from UN trusteeship to independence.
1. This legislature, elected for a five year term, will draft constitution and select chief of state.
 2. The Somali Youth League, which now manages internal affairs, has rigged these elections to ensure its continuation in power.
 3. This manipulation may be used by the Cairo-supported, anti-Western opposition party (Greater Somalia League) as excuse to engage in violence.
 - a. In fact violence erupted in Mogadiscio Monday and the police arrested 135 members of the "Greater Somalia League" including the President. More disorders are likely.
 4. The rigging, if given wide public attention, is likely to create adverse world opinion and raise serious doubts whether Somali Government is representative of people. In 1960 UN will discuss termination of trusteeship agreement.
 5. Moreover, these elections invite disorders between tribal elements long in conflict.

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